



For Immediate Release  
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**Rural Infrastructure Authority awards \$14.2 million in FY15 grants**  
*\$7.5 million awarded to 22 water and sewer projects in second round of FY15 grants*

**COLUMBIA, S.C.** – May 19, 2015 – The South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) has awarded \$14.2 million in grants this fiscal year for 44 water and sewer projects in 28 counties across the state. This RIA funding leverages an additional \$33 million in investments for rural infrastructure improvements.

“The ability to provide essentials such as water, wastewater, drainage systems and other public facilities is critical to the economic success of our rural communities. Each of the projects awarded with funding this year will help improve the quality of life for South Carolinians in all corners of our state,” said Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt, who also serves as chairman of the RIA’s Board of Directors.

The projects awarded funding will address community water and sewer improvements and economic infrastructure needs. Most of the funding will be used to upgrade or improve aging facilities to protect public health and ensure environmental compliance. The remaining grants will increase the infrastructure capacity to support existing businesses and new economic opportunities. These projects will impact more than 29,000 customers and serve 2,170 businesses.

Communities will benefit from the replacement of aging water and sewer lines, tanks and pump stations that are often difficult to repair and maintain. These improvements help to ensure that residents will have safe drinking water while protecting the environment from sewer overflows. Funds will also be used to build the infrastructure necessary to serve publicly-owned industrial properties that will attract new jobs and investment including an anticipated 980 jobs and \$563 million in private investment.

Grants are awarded through a competitive process that identifies priority needs for improved public health, environmental protection, community sustainability and economic development. Applicants are required to match the RIA funding requests. Applications are selected by the RIA Board based on criteria including: severity of the problem, expected benefits and feasibility of the project. A full list of grant recipients for fiscal year 2015 is below.

*The purpose of the RIA is to support the construction and improvement of rural infrastructure through competitive grants and other financial assistance. The RIA is governed by a seven member board of directors, and the SC Secretary of Commerce serves as the chairman.*

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<b>S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority FY2015 Grant Recipients</b>		
Allendale County	Economic Water and Sewer Infrastructure	\$311,583
Allendale, Town of	Sewer System Improvements	\$71,000
Andrews, Town of	Sewer System Improvements	\$350,000
Barnwell, City of	Economic Sewer Infrastructure	\$500,000

Bennettsville, City of	Water Line Upgrade	\$350,000
Chester Sewer District	Economic Sewer Infrastructure	\$500,000
Chesterfield County	Economic Sewer Infrastructure	\$350,000
Clarendon County	Economic Sewer Infrastructure	\$407,000
Colleton County	Economic Water and Sewer Infrastructure	\$145,568
Colleton County	Economic Water and Sewer Infrastructure	\$500,000
Darlington County Water & Sewer Authority	Economic Water and Sewer Infrastructure	\$500,000
Darlington County Water & Sewer Authority	Sewer System Improvements	\$350,000
Denmark, City of	Economic Water and Sewer Infrastructure	\$275,798
Eastover, Town of	Sewer System Improvements	\$126,000
Fairfield County	Well System Upgrade	\$240,000
Florence, City of	Water System Improvements	\$136,125
Gaffney Board of Public Works	Sewer System Improvements	\$350,000
Gray Court, Town of	Water Line Upgrade	\$283,000
Great Falls, Town of	Sewer System Improvements	\$346,800
Harleyville, Town of	Sewer System Improvements	\$9,193
Honea Path, Town of	Sewer System Improvements	\$268,500
Horry County	Water Line Upgrade	\$350,000
Jackson, Town of	Water Line Upgrade	\$350,000
Johnsonville, City of	Water System Improvements	\$350,000
Kershaw County	Economic Water Infrastructure	\$500,000
Kershaw, Town of	Water Line Upgrade	\$344,740
Kershaw, Town of	Water Line Upgrade	\$500,000
Kingstree, Town of	Water System Improvements	\$350,000
Lake City, City of	Sewer System Improvements	\$350,000
Lamar, Town of	Pump Station Upgrade	\$50,000
Laurens County Water & Sewer Commission	Pump Station Upgrade	\$350,000
Liberty, City of	Sewer System Improvements	\$195,164
Liberty-Chesnee-Fingerville Water District	Water Line Upgrade	\$257,750
Lowcountry Regional Water System	Regional Water Line Upgrade	\$350,000
Manning, City of	Water System Improvements	\$350,000
Marion County	Economic Infrastructure	\$500,000
McBee, Town of	Well System Upgrade	\$350,000
Olanta, Town of	Pump Station Upgrade	\$161,250
Pageland, Town of	Economic Sewer Infrastructure	\$350,000
Ridgeland, Town of	Economic Sewer Infrastructure	\$500,000
Turbeville, Town of	Economic Sewer Infrastructure	\$450,000
Union, City of	Sewer System Improvements	\$350,000
Westminster, City of	Water Line Upgrade	\$242,766
Woodruff, City of	Sewer System Improvements	\$286,525
<b>Total</b>	<b>44 projects</b>	<b>\$14,208,762</b>